

IN HONOR OF JIMMIE CANNON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable dedication and accomplishments of a constituent in my district, Mr. Jimmie Cannon of El Centro, CA. Jimmie has been the band teacher at Central Union High School for the past 30 years. He is soon retiring and I would like to take a moment to commend his devoted service to his job and to the students he has touched with his spirit and gift for teaching.

A native of Oklahoma, Jimmie joined the Army in 1952. He attended college at Philander Smith in Little Rock, AR where he met and married Maxine Sutton. After moving to Mahaska, KS, Jimmie began teaching music to children from the kindergarten to 12th grade level.

In 1964, the Cannon's moved to El Centro, CA, where Jimmie taught music at Wilson Junior High School until the fall of 1966 at which time he began teaching at Central Union High with the "Great Spartan Band." The Great Spartan Band has been very active in the community by performing annually at a number of the local schools in the Imperial Valley area. The band has also been an important participant at a great number of local charity organization events, while at the same time, committing to annual performances at such events as the Brawley Cattle Call Parade, American Heart Association, Red Ribbon Awareness Fair and the Special Olympics. Since Jimmie's time with the Great Spartan Band, they have received letters of commendation from such individuals as former Mexican President Louis Echeverria, Governor Ronald Reagan, and Brig. Gen. Harry Mendelson. The Great Spartan Band has also received special honors from a variety of national organizations including the Hawaii Invitational Music Festival, U.S.C. Concert of the Bands, Holiday Bowl Music Festival, Mardi Gras, Disneyland Parade and Concert, and Disneyworld Magic Kingdom.

In an era when our children have become less interested in their education, our Nation's teachers have become more vital in influencing the lives and future of their students. It is encouraging to know that teachers like Jimmie still endure. For the past 30 years, Jimmie has been able to share his love and appreciation of music with many students who will long remember his spirit and talent that touched so many of their lives. I would like to join these many grateful students in thanking and wishing Jimmie Cannon great happiness in all his future endeavors.

BILLY AND RUTH GRAHAM

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today the Congress presents its highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to the Reverend Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth.

It is fitting that such an honor be bestowed upon the Reverend Graham, as he has played

such a pivotal and selfless role in shaping and maintaining the moral fiber of our country. Perhaps Reverend Graham's greatest appeal is that his message pertains to all and excludes no one. Here in our Nation's capital, the party of Lincoln often speaks of the big tent, and how everyone is welcomed into it. While I believe that to be true, I also accept that our tent, when compared to the tent the Reverend Graham has built over the years, is more like a pup tent. He has the capacity and love to reach millions through the word of God, and has made that his lifetime cause.

The Reverend Graham instills in us the importance of hope, salvation, goodness and spiritual renewal, and how these measures require a lifetime commitment. He does not preach by whim or trend; in the Reverend Graham's world family values is not a recent phenomenon, but rather a way of life. For those who have lost their way and whose faith has been tested or questioned, the Reverend Graham is always there to welcome them back, to begin the process of spiritual rebirth with new vigor.

Whether he is acting as an unofficial spiritual adviser to one of the many U.S. presidents he has counseled over the years or preaching to the youth of America in one of his many crusades, the Reverend Graham has an uncanny ability to connect with people. Unlike so many evangelists whose sincerity seems manipulated for television audiences and who have become seduced by greed and power, the Reverend Graham has never strayed from the ethical, moral, and spiritual highroad. The only thing scandalous about this great man is that his life and preaching is devoid of scandal, which in this day and age is rare.

When I think of Rev. Billy Graham, I think of him as perhaps the best elder statesman America has known. I also think of his crusade in Cleveland a few years back, when he transformed the cavernous Cleveland Municipal Stadium into a massive sanctuary, touching and enriching the spiritual lives of so many. And, I think about the wonderful partnership he has with his wife, Ruth, which is proof positive that behind every great man is a great woman.

On this day when we award the Grahams the Congressional Gold Medal, we also give thanks for their years of devotion and inspiration, and for a constant affirmation of all that is right with America.

I have always believed our country has been touched and blessed by the hand of God. Today, we as a nation acknowledge that we also have been touched and blessed by the hand of the Rev. Billy Graham.

TRIBUTE TO BETHESDA-CHEVY
CHASE BRANCH AAUW

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Chamber to honor the Bethesda-Chevy Chase [B-CC] branch of the American Association of University Women [AAUW] on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

The first 50 members of B-CC AAUW were installed by Maryland AAUW president, Mrs.

C.L. Everson, on May 20, 1946, at the Woman's Club of Bethesda clubhouse. The first president of the local group was Mrs. Noble Boaz.

The members of the B-CC branch quickly established study groups that reflected their interests and diversity, and after only 1 year, began a newsletter that has, to this day, maintained the same format. At first, the branch was involved in local affairs that affected the community and the schools. AAUW members closely followed the proposed policies of candidates for the school board and the county council, and often volunteered for various county boards and commissions. During the 1950's, AAUW had attained important influence in the community, affecting decisions regarding teacher recruitment and salaries in the local schools.

Over the years, the programs at the monthly meetings of the local branch have covered every conceivable subject, from outer space to foreign affairs. These programs are indicative of the interest of the members in the pursuit of knowledge. Many programs have centered on various aspects of art, books, and science, again reflecting the talents and interests of the membership in education.

Scholarship has always been high on the AAUW agenda, and the B-CC branch began raising money to help students obtain a higher education. In February 1949, the organization held a fellowship tea at the Iranian Embassy. Admission was \$1.50. Soon after, several bridge groups were begun as a way to raise money for scholarships. Members also held fashion shows, art auctions, yard sales, and book and author luncheons.

This year, members are focusing on conducting workshops that address gender equity. The B-CC branch is particularly interested in promoting women in math and science, and established a contest for high school girls to suggest scientific careers.

Mr. Speaker, the B-CC branch of AAUW has a long and proud history of advocacy for the equality of all women. The members of this esteemed group, since the beginning, have challenged injustice and discrimination in society. I am proud to pay tribute to the B-CC branch of AAUW for 50 years of dedication and service that has enabled women to enjoy the benefits of the Nineties. I congratulate Frances Cressman, Thelma Feld, Barbara Hively, Frances Dellon, Ellen Gillis, Inge Baer, Alice Dixon, and Louis Peltier, who make up the board of directors, as well as all of the wonderful members of the B-CC branch on this milestone anniversary. These AAUW members are long-distance runners for equality and social justice, and I wish them continued success for the future.

HONORING THE MUDDY POND
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Muddy Pond Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.